



Page 2: ABOUT YOU

Q1 **LESOTHO**

Respondent (Country or Customs Territory)

Q2

About you

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Page 3: SECTION A: TRADE PRIORITIES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OR STRATEGY(IES)

Q3 **Yes**

Do you have a national development plan or strategy?
(ies)?

Page 4: SECTION A: TRADE PRIORITIES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OR STRATEGY(IES)

Q4

If yes, does your national development plan or strategy(ies) include trade priorities?

Yes,

If yes, please provide further details including hyperlinks to relevant documents containing trade priorities::
The National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II) is a Government of Lesotho's blueprint which spells out plans and strategies which should be pursued by Government Ministries and Agencies, private sector and non-government organisations to grow and develop the country's economy in the span of five years, that is 2023/24 to 2027/28. In the document there is a chapter on "Enhancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Private-Sector-led Job creation". In this chapter trade in terms of commercial agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and creative industries and technology and innovation have been selected as sectors which can spur economic growth and development of the country's economy which will eventually lead to job creation and poverty reduction.

Page 5: SECTION A: TRADE PRIORITIES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OR STRATEGY(IES)

Q5

Does your national development strategy(ies) have a thematic focus?

Yes

Page 6: SECTION A: TRADE PRIORITIES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OR STRATEGY(IES)

Q6

If yes, please choose options from the non-exhaustive list of thematic options of key strategic objectives below. (If an objective(s) does not appear in the drop-down list, please tick other and add details in the text box.)

DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIFIC ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS:

- '
- Economic diversification,**
- Enhancing exports in non-traditional sectors,**
- Export diversification,**
- Expansion of the extractive sector (minerals and mining)**
- '
- Expansion of the agriculture sector,**
- Expansion of the forestry sector,**
- Expansion of the manufacturing sector,**
- Expansion of the services sector,**
- Expansion of the digital economy,**
- Infrastructure development,**
- Trade integration,**
- Institutional strengthening (e.g. good governance, transparency and accountability)**
- '
- Climate change mitigation,**
- Climate change adaptation,**
- Innovation and technological development,**
- Expansion of the formal economy,**
- Expansion of the MSME sector,**
- Expansion of public-private partnerships,**
- Human capital development (e.g. education through skills, training and health)**
- '
- Protection of biodiversity,**
- Higher labour productivity,**
- Employment creation,**
- Women's economic empowerment and gender equality**
- '
- Youth employment and skills,**
- Pollution control,**
- Environmental protection,**
- Sustainable resource management,**
- Waste management ,**
- Circular economy,**
- Improved (national) environmental governance,**

Food security,

DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIFIC SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

,

DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS:

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Q7

No

Do the trade priorities found in your national development plan or strategy(ies) reflect specific development objectives or targets?For example, the national development plan of Benin aims to achieve a sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth of at least 10% by 2025.

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Q8

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, please choose options from the non-exhaustive list below. (If an objective(s) or target* do not appear in the list below, please tick other and add details in the text box. Please tick relevant boxes).Objectives & Targets*:

Page 9: SECTION B: TRADE PRIORITIES IN OTHER NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OR STRATEGY(IES)

Q9

Yes

In addition to the trade priorities you may have in your national development strategy, do you have trade priorities that are set out in other national policy documents or strategies?

Page 10: SECTION B: TRADE PRIORITIES IN OTHER NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OR STRATEGY(IES)

Q10

If yes, do you have a national trade policy or strategy, export development strategy or similar policy or strategy (e.g. national diagnostic trade integration study update, national e-commerce strategy etc.)? For example, Jordan has published a national export strategy for the period 2023-2025.

Yes,

(If yes, please provide further details, including dates the strategy covers and hyperlinks to relevant documents)::
The National Trade Policy Framework which covers the period 2021 to 2025 serves as the country's national trade policy which provides guidance in the implementation of Lesotho's trade agenda. It identifies specific policy and regulatory interventions designed to advance the country's development aspirations and to create a conducive business environment for private sector including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Furthermore, there is National Trade Strategy covering the period 2021 - 2025 as well which acts as a blueprint for the government, private sector and development partners in their efforts to expand the productive capacities of the country's MSMEs in strategic export potential sectors. The Strategy focuses on three priority sectors with high potential for export growth, that is, horticulture, textiles and apparels, and light industries.

Page 11: SECTION B: TRADE PRIORITIES IN OTHER NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OR STRATEGY(IES)

Q11

Do these other national policy documents or strategies include trade objectives or targets? For example, Ghana's National Export Development Strategy envisages that over a duration of 10 years non-traditional exports will grow from \$2.8 billion in 2020 to \$25.3 billion in 2029 accompanied by deep structural transformation that positions Ghana as a competitive export-led industrialized economy.

No**Q12**

If yes, please chose options from the non-exhaustive list below. If an objective(s) does not appear in the list, please tick "other" and add details in the text box. If no, please indicate if there is another strategy or policy that includes specific objective of targets.

Respondent skipped this question**Q13**

Do the trade priorities found in your national development strategy align with those found in other national policy documents or strategy(ies)?

Yes, in part,

Additional information on alignment of trade priorities::
The sectoral policy strategies are aligned with the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) since the sectoral policies contribute into the formulation of the NSDP.

Page 12: SECTION C: SECTORAL AND REGIONAL TRADE OBJECTIVES

Q14

Yes

Do the trade objectives in your national development plan and/or those found in other national policy documents or strategies include sectoral objectives? For example, Vision 2030 Jamaica includes 31 Sector Plans (in 28 separate documents) prepared by Task Forces, comprising stakeholders from public and private sector bodies, civil society and international development partners). And Bhutan's National Export Strategy 2022 identifies the mineral and timber industries as holding potential for the development of value-added products.

Page 13: SECTION C: SECTORAL AND REGIONAL TRADE OBJECTIVES

Q15

If yes, please tick all relevant boxes and provide further details, including hyperlinks to relevant documents. If no, please indicate if there is another national strategy or policy that includes specific objectives or targets. (Please tick relevant boxes)

Agriculture,
Forestry,
Mining and minerals,
Renewable energy,
Manufacturing sector,
MSME sector development,
Services (general),
Banking and financial services,
Business and professional services,
Communication services, including ICT,
Construction services,
Culture and creative industries,
Distribution services,
Education services,
Energy services,
Environment services,
Science, technology and innovation,
Recreation and sport,
Tourism,
Transport services (air, land and maritime),
Cross-sectoral e-commerce and digital trade

Page 14: SECTION C: SECTORAL AND REGIONAL TRADE OBJECTIVES

Q16**Yes**

Does the trade objectives found in your national development plan or strategy(ies) and in other national policy documents or strategies include regional objectives? For example, the national development strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040 includes, inter alia, the objective to work on harmonious integration of the Kyrgyz economy with the Eurasian Economic Union; active participation in regional projects that improve production and transit capacity; diversification of foreign economic focus of Kyrgyzstan through development of mutually beneficial trade, economic and investment cooperation with the countries of South and Southeast Asia, the Arab East and America.

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Q17

If yes, please identify the relevant economic community(ies). (Please tick relevant boxes)

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),**Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**

,

Southern African Development Community (SADC),**East African Community (EAC),****Mercosur**

Page 16: SECTION D: FINANCING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

Q18**Yes**

Does your government have priority areas for Aid for Trade for which it is actively seeking support?

Page 17: SECTION D: FINANCING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

Q19

If yes, please indicate the relevant priority areas for Aid for Trade for which your government is actively seeking support.(Please tick relevant boxes)

TRADE POLICY AND REGULATIONS (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to undertake trade reform/facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)

,
Trade policy and administrative management,
Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs),

Trade education/training,

TRADE-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE (Including physical infrastructure)

,
TRADE DEVELOPMENT (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)

,
Building productive capacity,
Agriculture,
Multilateral trade negotiations,
Industry,
Travel and tourism,
Digital trade and e-commerce

Page 18: SECTION D: FINANCING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

Q20

Yes

Have these priorities been communicated to Donors and South-South partners?

Page 19: SECTION D: FINANCING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

Q21

Communication of policy document,
Diagnostic trade integration study or update

If yes, please provide additional information on how priorities were communicated:

Page 20: SECTION D: FINANCING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

Q22

Does your government face difficulties in financing implementation of the trade objectives found in your development plan or strategy(ies) or trade strategy?

Yes,

If yes, please identify which sources of aid finance or other financial assistance for trade that you would like to attract to achieve your trade objectives. (e.g. Official Development Assistance (i.e. Aid for Trade), Other Official Flows (loans at concessional rates that do not qualify as ODA), South-South co-operation, Climate finance, etc.)::

Lesotho being classified as a least developed country relies heavily on development financing to implement its overall development objectives and in particular trade development. Aid for Trade financing especially EIF financing remains very relevant to help Lesotho to achieve her trade related financial and technical assistance.

Page 21: SECTION D: FINANCING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

Q23

Do you face difficulties in accessing finance to address your Aid-for-Trade priorities?

No

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Q24

If yes, please choose options from the non-exhaustive list below. (If a difficulty in accessing aid for trade does not appear in the drop-down list, please tick other and add details in the text box.)

Respondent skipped this question

Page 23: SECTION D: FINANCING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

Q25

Does your government face a situation where it is receiving an increasing share of Aid for Trade in the form of loans and a declining share of grants?

No

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Q26

If yes, does this situation present a challenge for your government to achieve its trade objectives?

Respondent skipped this question

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Q27

No

Do you plan to stop receiving Aid for Trade? Has a date been set to achieve this objective (e.g. a date to stop receiving foreign aid)?

Page 26: SECTION E: ALIGNMENT OF AID-FOR-TRADE SUPPORT

Q28

Mostly aligned,

How well-aligned is the Aid-for-Trade support you receive with your Aid-for-Trade priorities?

Additional information on Aid-for-Trade alignment. Please specify whether this is an official perspective or the personal opinion of the respondent::
This is a personal opinion.

Q29

What challenges do you encounter in aligning the Aid-for-Trade support you receive with the sectoral level needs outlined in relevant policy documents ? (Please tick relevant boxes)

Difficulties associated with cross-sectoral approaches (e.g. e-commerce development)

,

Lack of donor coordination,

Conditions required by development partners to access support

,

Human capacity constraints to developing bankable projects

,

Lack of partner country ownership,

Weak institutional capacity (e.g. lack of coordination at domestic level)

Page 27: SECTION F: OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS OF AID-FOR-TRADE SUPPORT

Q30

No

Do development financing partners (i.e. both donors and South-South partners) align their monitoring and evaluation with your national monitoring or results frameworks?

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Q31

Yes

Do you measure the impacts of the Aid-for-Trade support you receive?

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Q32

If yes, where is Aid for Trade having a measurable impact in your opinion?(Please tick relevant boxes)

Trade policy and administrative management,

Multilateral trade negotiations,

TRADE POLICY AND REGULATIONS (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to undertake trade reform/facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)

TRADE DEVELOPMENT (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)

Page 30: SECTION F: OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS OF AID-FOR-TRADE SUPPORT

Q33

Is there an Aid-for-Trade project or programme that you would like to highlight as an example of best practice?

Yes,

Additional information on best practice examples::
The Horticultural Productivity and Trade Development Project (HPDP) was financed through the EIF funds with technical support and implementation provided by the International Trade Centre (ITC). The main objective of the HPDP was to improve productivity of small-scale farmers to produce high value fruits and vegetables through adoption of greenhouse technology. Through the use of this technology, farmers were able to grow non-traditional crops such as cucumbers which were supplied to the retail businesses and hotels.

Page 31: SECTION G: FUTURE AID-FOR-TRADE NEEDS

Q34

Do you foresee a continued need for Aid-for-Trade financing?

Yes

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Q35

If yes, please tick all relevant boxes and provide further details including hyperlinks as relevant.(Please tick relevant boxes)

Agriculture,
Fisheries,
Mining and minerals,
Renewable energy,
Manufacturing sector,
MSME sector development,
Communication services, including ICT,
Culture and creative industries,
Environment services,
Science, technology and innovation,
Recreation and sport,
Tourism,
Cross-sectoral e-commerce and digital trade

Q36

In which categories of Aid-for-Trade support do you foresee future needs?(Please tick relevant boxes)

Trade facilitation,
Trade-related Communications infrastructure,
Digital trade and e-commerce,
TRADE-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE (Including physical infrastructure)

Page 33: SECTION G: FUTURE AID-FOR-TRADE NEEDS

Q37 **Yes**

Do you foresee future needs for Aid for Trade to support the achievement of trade-related aspects of the Sustainable Development Agenda?

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Q38

If yes, please indicate the relevant SDGs that Aid for Trade can help achieve.(Please tick relevant boxes)

GOAL 1: No Poverty,
GOAL 2: Zero Hunger,
GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy,
GOAL 13: Climate Action

Page 35: SECTION G: FUTURE AID-FOR-TRADE NEEDS

Q39 **Yes**

Do you foresee future needs for Aid for Trade to support the trade-related aspects of climate change ?